



AUGUST 19, 2026

HOLLAND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER





PRESERVING THE PAST TO INSPIRE THE FUTURE.



INNOVATION. DETERMINATION. LEGACY.

Discover the visionary leaders who shaped our region
through photos, stories and artifacts at
The Durham Museum's Omaha Business Hall of Fame exhibit.

*Proceeds from tonight's Gala help preserve
this permanent tribute for generations to come.*

Visit the exhibit at



801 S 10th Street | Omaha, NE 68108 | (402) 444-5071

DurhamMuseum.org



Established in 1993 to honor the 100th anniversary of the Greater Omaha Chamber, the Omaha Business Hall of Fame recognizes the important role business leaders play in the growth and development of Omaha.

Youth, education, business and outstanding leaders make up the emblem of the Omaha Business Hall of Fame, designed by Omaha artist John Thein. The symbol incorporates the flame, representing energy; the circle, a sign of continuing life and the profile of a person, symbolizing individual initiative and enterprise.

The Omaha Business Hall of Fame exhibit is located at The Durham Museum.

✦ ✦ *Mission*

Preserve the role of individual business achievement in Omaha's history.

Recognize outstanding contributors to the business history of the Greater Omaha area who have advanced the excellence of the region, through either sustained superior performance or through a specific achievement.

Recognize the importance of business and free enterprise to the development, future growth and overall quality of life of this community.

Contribute to the overall business image of the Greater Omaha area.

Provide funding, through an annual gala, for projects that contribute to the economic development of Omaha and opportunities for young professionals.



MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT

CEREMONY: Jennifer Novak Haar, piano

RECEPTION: UNO Jazz Combo

WELCOME & PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Heath Mello, *President & CEO*
Greater Omaha Chamber

Stephen Bruckner, *Partner*
Fraser Stryker PC LLP

Dave Anderson, *Managing Partner*
KPMG LLP

Joe Sullivan, *SVP, Business Banking Market Leader*
U.S. Bank

SELECTION COMMITTEE

Dave Anderson

Brenda Mainwaring

Carmen Tapio

Stephen M. Bruckner

Heath Mello

Paul West

Rodrigo López

Jane Miller

Beth Whited

Linda Lovgren

Jay Noddle

John Lund

Joe Sullivan

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

David G. Brown

G. Richard Russell

Derek J. Leathers

& Carol Madson Russell

Steve Menzies

The Honorable Jean Stothert



View all upcoming events: OmahaChamber.org/Events

MEMBERS *of the* OMAHA BUSINESS *Hall of Fame*

1993

Rose Blumkin
Warren Buffett
John A. Creighton
Robert Daugherty
Peter Kiewit
V.J. Skutt

1994

Charles W. Durham
Samuel M. Greenberg
Charles M. "Mike" Harper
Herman Kountze
Allan G. Lozier

1995

Abe Baker
Leo A. Daly Jr.
Joseph Hopkins Millard
John J. Mulhall
Walter Scott Jr.

1996

Mildred Brown
Ike Friedman
John R. Lauritzen
Joseph Cullen Root
Willis A. Strauss

1997

Harold W. Andersen
George Brandeis
William F. Fitzgerald
Harry G. Watanabe
Clarence L. Werner

1998

N.P. "Phil" Dodge
Vinod Gupta
George Joslyn
Lester Simon
Roy A. Smith

1999

Milton R. Abrahams
Dr. C.C. and Mabel Criss
Fred H. Hawkins
William A. Paxton Sr.
Charles D. Peebler Jr.
Michael B. Yanney

2000

Eugene C. Eppley
John C. Kenefick
Byron Reed
J. Joe Ricketts
Phillip G. Schrager
Harley D. Schrager

2001

Perry E. "Bill" Esping
John Gottschalk
Wayne L. Ryan, Ph.D.
Maurice M. "Maury" Udes
John A. Wiebe

2002

John D. Diesing
Howard L. Hawks
Joseph Kirshenbaum
Harlan J. Noddle
Amos T. and Alberta F. Pearl
John W. Weekly

2003

C.R. "Bob" Bell
Father Edward Flanagan
Stanley J. How
Kenneth E. Stinson
J. Wendell Thomas
Benjamin Wiesman

2004

The Honorable Hal Daub
Bruce R. Lauritzen
Lee G. Simmons
David L. Sokol
Robert H. Storz

2005

Jack W. Baker
Charles F. Heider
Senator Gilbert M. Hitchcock
Harry A. Koch Jr.
Robert J. Kutak
John P. Nelson

2006

Edward Creighton
Richard K. Davidson
William A. Fitzgerald
Michael R. McCarthy
Alan D. Simon
Frederick J. Simon
Stephen H. Simon
Gilbert C. Swanson
W. Clarke Swanson

2007

Chip Davis
Kathleen C. Dodge
N.P. Dodge Jr.
Henry Doorly
Richard D. Holland
A.F. Jacobson

2008

Tal Anderson
Clifton B. Batchelder
Anne Stuart Batchelder
Edward H. Harriman
William McBain Kizer
Edward Fred Owen
Arthur B. Pittman, D.V.M.

2009

Robert D. Bates
Deryl F. Hamann
Frank L. Hayes
Clarence L. Landen
Harold M. Maurer, M.D.
Michael Simmonds
Pamela Watanabe-Gerdes

2010

Erastus A. Benson
Pennie Z. Davis
Samuel D. Mercer
Joseph H. Moglia
Theodore "Ted" M. Seldin
Janice D. Stoney

2011

Richard R. Bell
Dan Gordman
George F. Haddix
John P. Schlegel S.J.
Wallace Roger Weitz
Lyn Wallin Ziegenbein

2012

Michael G. Fahey
Robert Gregg "Bob" Hoig
Paul and Lori Hogan
Jun and Ree Kaneko
Linda Hoepfner Lovgren
D.J. Witherspoon

2013

Mogens C. Bay
Marshall E. Faith
Susan M. Jacques, G.G., F.G.A.
William M. "Willy" Thelsen
James R. Young

2014

Irvin Blumkin
Louis Blumkin
Ronald Blumkin
John K. Boyer
Paul C. Jessen
Aldo J. Tesi

2017

William A. Cutler
John S. Dinsdale
Stan Olsen
Robert A. Reed
Lee H. Sapp
William D. Sapp

2018

Irving R. Dana Jr.
Gary Gates
Fred Hopka Hawkins Jr.
Kenneth Michael Hawkins
John J. Koraleski
Steven S. Martin

2017

Todd A. Becker
Leo Bozell
Edson L. Bridges II
Jim Clifton
Morris Jacobs
Jane Miller
PJ Morgan

2018

Larry Courtneage
Bruce E. Grewcock
Dianne Seeman Lozier
Dan O'Neill
Dr. Maryanne Stevens, RSM

2019

Daniel J. Bishop
Gail DeBoer
John W. Estabrook
Jeff Kavich
Larry Kavich
Lazier Kavich
Gale L. Wickersham
Amea Zetzman

2021

Ronald B. Gartlan
James Linder, MD
Karen A. Linder
Rodrigo Lopez
Robert G. Lueder (1922 - 2013)
Paul Smith

2022

Don Eckles
Linda Eckles
John F. Lund
Jay Noddle
Carmen Tapio

2023

Ron Carson
Gregory S. Cutchall (1952 - 2022)
David Karnes (1948 - 2020)
Beverly Kracher, Ph.D.
Mary Ann O'Brien

2024

Lance M. Fritz
Clarence L. Landen, Jr. (1924 - 2011)
Clarence L. Landen, III
James E. Landen, Sr.
Sid Meridith
Constance Ryan
Joan H. Squires

2025

Roger A. Dixon
Todd & Mary Heistand
Chris J. Murphy
Bruce Simon (1957 - 2021)
Todd Simon

2026

David G. Brown
Derek J. Leathers
Steve Menzies
G. Richard Russell
Carol Madson Russell
The Honorable Jean Stothert

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Presenting Sponsors:



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Bridges Trust, established in 1945, is a leading wealth management firm based in Omaha, Nebraska. With a team of 80 professionals overseeing assets exceeding \$10 billion for a diverse clientele with varying needs and affluent backgrounds, including managing \$2.6 billion for non-profit entities. As the state's first registered investment advisor, Bridges Trust remains privately owned, specializing in built to suit services providing trust, investment management, family office, philanthropic consulting and strategic planning services for a growing client base.

Committed to delivering lasting value across generations, Bridges Trust maintains a legacy of trust and excellence both in the financial sector and within the community. Dedicated to supporting the community it serves, Bridges Trust actively contributes to over 50 organizations each year through donations and sponsorships.

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View all upcoming events: OmahaChamber.org/Events



Congratulations David

This is an honor well deserved and
THANK YOU for your service to the city!

Joe Moglia
BHOF 2010



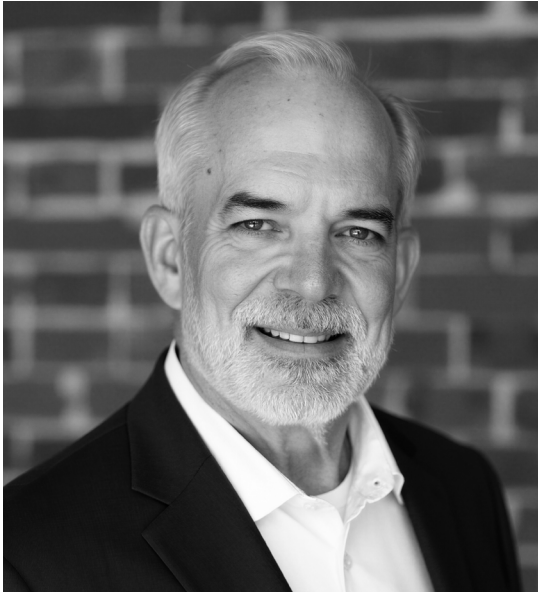
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Honoring the leaders whose vision
continues to shape generations.

Congratulations to the 2026 Omaha Business
Hall of Fame inductees and all past honorees.

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David Brown



David Brown
Retired President & CEO
Greater Omaha Chamber

David G. Brown was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. One of six children, he distinguished himself in academics and athletics, earning admission to Dartmouth College. After graduation, he returned to Michigan and began a career in economic development, first in Monroe and then in Flint. He later returned to Monroe for his first leadership position before being recruited to Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he led economic development efforts and eventually became chamber president. He then served as president of the Greater Greenville Chamber in South Carolina. In October 2003, he became President and CEO of the Greater Omaha Chamber, serving in that role until May 2022.

Under his leadership, the 3,000-member Omaha Chamber championed a strong business climate, advanced regional growth, and elevated Omaha's standing as a premier region for business and talent. During his tenure, the Chamber led public policy initiatives statewide that resulted in landmark legislation, while its economic development partnership helped secure 972 projects, 56,433 new jobs, and nearly \$15 billion in new investment.

Brown also helped launch Omaha 2040, a long-range regional vision centered on people, place, and prosperity. That work contributed to major regional initiatives including the Urban Core Strategic Plan, the ConnectGO regional transit strategy, and workforce and leadership development initiatives designed to strengthen collaboration and opportunity across Omaha's business community.

Following his retirement from the Chamber, Brown founded DGB & Associates, LLC and became Lead Consultant with Next Generation Consulting, advising clients on long-range visioning and strategic foresight.

Brown has remained deeply engaged in civic and community leadership. He co-founded the Omaha Business Ethics Alliance and served on the USSTRATCOM Consultation Committee, the Men's College World Series Board, multiple United Way of the Midlands campaign cabinets, and the Opera Omaha board. Nationally, he chaired the Board of Directors of the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) and served on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100.

David and his wife, Maggie, have called Omaha home since 2003. They are the proud parents of Gregory and Elijah and grandparents to Cordelia.

Derek J. Leathers



Derek J. Leathers
Chairman & CEO
Werner Enterprises

Derek J. Leathers is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Werner, serving as Chairman since May 2021 and CEO since May 2016. He was Vice Chairman in 2020-21 and President from 2011 to January 2024. Throughout his tenure at Werner, he has held integral roles in many facets of the organization, including the establishment of the Company's Mexico operations and oversight for all asset operating groups. Leathers has worked in the transportation and logistics industry for more than 30 years. Prior to joining Werner in 1999, he was employed by Schneider National for eight years, during which time he was based in Mexico City and was one of the first foreign members of Mexico's trucking association (CANACAR).

Leathers holds an economics degree from Princeton University. In addition to his corporate leadership, he is deeply committed to the Omaha community and the transportation industry. He serves as the board chair of the American Transportation Research Institute, vice-chair of the American Trucking Associations, and on the board of SkyWest Incorporated.

Locally, Leathers is an active member of the Greater Omaha Chamber Executive Committee and previously served as Board Secretary. He also serves on the boards of the Omaha Development Foundation, United Way of the Midlands, and is a Trustee for Creighton University. A champion for youth, he is the founder of the PlaySmart Leadership Academy. Most recently, Derek and his wife, Nicole—who are also the 2027 United Way Campaign Chairs—chaired Zoofari 2025, which raised record-breaking funds for conservation and education at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium.

WERNER®



CONGRATULATIONS, DEREK LEATHERS!



We proudly celebrate our Chairman and CEO on his induction into the Greater Omaha Chamber Omaha Business Hall of Fame.

Derek's integrity and vision continue to drive Werner® forward as we celebrate our 70th anniversary, while shaping a stronger Omaha community.

THANK YOU, DEREK, FOR LEADING THE WAY!

werner.com

Some people leave a legacy. Others continue building one every single day.

Leadership leaves its greatest mark not through individual achievement, but through the success it inspires in others.

Congratulations to Applied Underwriters Chairman Steve Menzies and all of the 2026 Omaha Business Hall of Fame Honorees.



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Steve Menzies



Steve Menzies

Chairman of the Board
Applied Underwriters

For Steve Menzies, there is an easy commerce between his leadership in the corporate world and his dedicated philanthropy. A lifelong, self-made serial entrepreneur, Steve began his career in a ten-by-ten office shortly after graduating from Columbia University with an engineering degree in Mathematics. His commercial achievements include the creation of Applied Underwriters, North American Casualty, and United Risk.

In 2006, Steve became a partner with Warren Buffett, becoming the youngest CEO within the Berkshire Hathaway organization and, in 2019, the only CEO to buy back from Berkshire. Today, his companies collectively form one of the largest private insurance organizations in the world.

Steve is equally invested in his employees and works to enrich the communities where they work and live. He designed and developed the architecturally award-winning home for his company's 2,000-employee operations campus in Omaha, located within his 500-acre mixed-use development known as Heartwood Preserve. Heartwood has received more than ten distinguished awards, including Fast Company's 2025 Innovation by Design Award for "preventing floods with infrastructure that doubles as land art."

Steve is deeply committed to philanthropy and has chosen to apply his accumulated resources, entrepreneurial skills, and connections to solve seemingly impossible, complex social problems.

Through his eponymous foundation, which functions as an incubator, Steve has recently brought to life two new action-driven charitable institutions. Global Reach, formed in 2023, helps Americans abroad who are held hostage by terrorists or criminal gangs or wrongfully detained by foreign governments. The St. Francis Day Foundation, formed in 2021 in partnership with Pope Francis, develops and distributes educational materials globally in response to the worldwide social crisis created by the abuse of social technology.

Highly decorated and frequently cited, Steve most recently received the prestigious José Juan de Olloqui Award in 2026 for Leadership in the Western Hemisphere.

G. Richard Russell & Carol Madson Russell



**G. Richard Russell
& Carol Madson Russell**

*Chairman, Civic & Community Leaders
Millard Lumber*

G. Richard Russell and Carol Madson Russell have demonstrated a longstanding commitment to business leadership, volunteerism, and community involvement in Omaha.

Rick Russell was born in Yankton, South Dakota, and moved with his parents, George F. and Marjorie H. Russell, to Millard, Nebraska, where George founded Millard Lumber and Grain. After graduating from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in 1969, Rick attended Northwestern University, graduating in 1971 with an MBA in finance. After two years as a mortgage banker, he joined Millard Lumber in 1973, working in general administration, credit, and accounting. As the company grew and expanded, Rick became President and then Chief Executive Officer at age 43, following the sudden death of his father.

Throughout his career, Rick remained active in civic and nonprofit organizations in Omaha and Nebraska, including Children's Hospital & Medical Center, the Peter Kiewit Foundation, the Omaha branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, the Omaha Children's Museum, and the Nebraska State Chamber.

Carol Russell earned a master's degree in pathology while working as a medical technologist in the University of Nebraska Medical Center laboratory of Rashid Al-Rashid, M.D., Nebraska's first pediatric hematologist/oncologist. She later became widely recognized for her extensive volunteer involvement and nonprofit leadership throughout Omaha and Nebraska, receiving the Association of Fundraising Professionals International Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year Award in 2005. Her volunteer leadership has supported a wide range of organizations focused on education, children and families, aging, health care, community development, and human services throughout Nebraska.

Together, Rick and Carol Russell created a family culture grounded in service, generosity, and civic engagement. Their children credit their parents' example with shaping their own lifelong commitments to volunteerism, nonprofit leadership, and community service. Family members described volunteerism in the Russell household as a core value and an expected part of life. They are the parents of three children and grandparents to seven grandchildren.



MILLARD LUMBER CONGRATULATES RICK AND CAROL RUSSELL!



Rick Russell, Millard Lumber Chairman,
and Carol Russell

**2026 Omaha Business
Hall of Fame Inductees**

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BUILDING THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW, TODAY.

The Omaha Business Hall of Fame Gala is proud to support the Greater Omaha Chamber's Young Professionals program, providing professional development, networking and community engagement opportunities to develop, recognize and retain the next generation of Omaha's trailblazers.

Congratulations
JEAN STOHERT

& THANK YOU for your
service to our city.



The Honorable Jean Stothert



The Honorable Jean Stothert

Former Mayor
City of Omaha

Mayor Jean Stothert has served the citizens of Omaha in elected office for 27 years, but her record of public service was instilled at a young age by her parents.

After graduating from nursing school, she worked as a critical care nurse and head nurse of cardiovascular surgery at St. Louis University. Her nursing career continued in Washington and Texas before she moved to Omaha with her family in 1993.

Stothert became involved in the Millard Public Schools as a classroom volunteer. She was appointed and then elected to the Millard Board of Education, serving 11 years, including three as President. In 2009, she was elected to the Omaha City Council, representing District 5 in southwest Omaha. In 2013, she was elected Omaha's 51st mayor, becoming the first woman to hold the office. She was re-elected in 2017 and 2021, the first mayor to serve three consecutive terms.

As mayor, Stothert prioritized public safety, city finances, economic development, job and business growth, and improving the taxpayer experience so every citizen received excellent customer service when interacting with city government.

She championed numerous public-private partnerships that continue to contribute to the successful growth of Omaha, including The RiverFront, the downtown Mutual of Omaha headquarters, expansion of CHI Health Center, the Omaha Central Library, the Omaha Streetcar, Steelhouse Omaha, the Tenaska Center for Arts Engagement, and new youth sports facilities at Levi Carter Park, Tranquility Park and Project Game On at Omaha North High School.

Mayor Stothert has served on the Salvation Army Advisory Board, the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency Board of Directors, Omaha Sister Cities Association and the Smart Cities Initiative.

Following retirement from elected office, she now hosts a daily call-in show on KFAB radio.

